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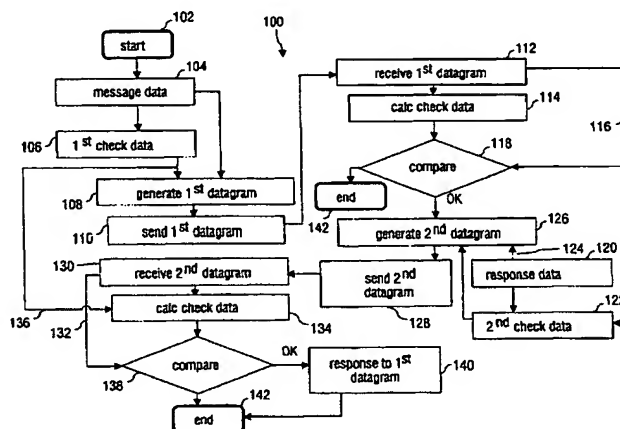
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: AN IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL



(57) Abstract: A method of communicating datagrams between terminals (nodes) of a communications system. In systems operating over unreliable media redundancy check data (136) can be included in a datagram for use in verifying the integrity of the datagram when received (112) by a terminal; satisfactory receipt of the datagram can be confirmed by the receiving terminal issuing (128) a response datagram to the originating terminal, for example an acknowledgement. The present invention utilises the redundancy check data (116) of a received original datagram (which redundancy check data includes information on the identity of the originating terminal and the content of the datagram) in the generation (122) of new redundancy check data for the acknowledgement (or other type of response) datagram. The originating terminal receives (130) and processes (134, 138) the response datagram in conjunction with its own local record of the redundancy check data (136) of the original datagram. In this way, the present invention ensures the response datagram is compact in size whilst enabling the originating terminal not only to verify (138) the integrity of the response datagram but also to recognise (140) the response datagram as being the response to the original datagram.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data, INSPEC, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y A	<p>US 6 088 337 A (CUDAK MARK CONRAD ET AL) 11 July 2000 (2000-07-11)</p> <p>abstract column 2, line 3 - line 6 column 2, line 11 - line 14 column 2, line 26 - line 27 column 3, line 6 - column 4, line 24 column 5, line 24 - column 6, line 8 claims 1,2,4,7-9 figures 1,2,4,8</p> <p>— -/--</p>	<p>7,9-11</p> <p>1 2-6,8</p>

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 998 095 A (LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC) 3 May 2000 (2000-05-03)	7,9-11
Y	abstract paragraph '0002! paragraph '0004! paragraph '0013! claims 1,12	1
X	US 6 438 678 B1 (GRUMMER GRANT ET AL) 20 August 2002 (2002-08-20) abstract column 1, line 23 - line 40 column 1, line 65 -column 2, line 5 column 2, line 27 - line 67 column 3, line 24 - line 35 column 6, line 35 - line 44 column 7, line 25 - line 26 column 7, line 40 - line 41 column 15, line 26 - line 43 column 18, line 47 -column 19, line 6 figures 9,15	9-11

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